

From: Tom Xia [txia@dc-engineers.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2009 10:26 PM
To: Nogler, Tim (COM); Tom Kinsman
Cc: asidler@hotmail.com; andyt@kpff.com; cheryl.burwell@seattle.gov; dfields@mka.com; davida@kpff.com; dgonzalez@degenkolb.com; dbeck@bellevuewa.gov; drwilson@snopud.com; houston@smithhoustoninc.com; gcoons@swensonsayfaget.com; kmow@dc-engineers.com; mrp@mrpengineering.com; MikeB@abkj.com; psomers@mka.com; pbrazil@reidmidd.com; sbear@cityoftacoma.org; steve.pfeiffer@seattle.gov; TerryL@cplinc.com; txia@dc-engineers.com
Subject: SEAW/EEC Position on - log 09-246 (1/3 stress increase)
Attachments: SBCC Bldg Code TAG Log 09-246.pdf; SEAW EEC MEMORANDUM - ETH.pdf; Trial Designs 07A-M-001 R1 .pdf; 2006 IBC Structural Q & A.pdf; Reinforced Concrete Masonry Design Application Guide.pdf; Masonry Designers Guide 5th Edition.pdf; 2006 Design of Reinforced Masonry Structures.pdf; 2003 IBC Reinforced Masonry Design.pdf; 2107 2.doc

To: Tim Nogler, Managing Director (Washington State Building Code Council)
Re: SEAW/EEC Position on Tag Log #09-246

Mr. Nogler,

The Earthquake Engineering Committee (EEC) of Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW) was asked to review the issue related to the Washington state building code amendment Tag Log #09-246. This amendment is submitted by Tom Yong who is the executive director of Northwest Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). The purpose of this amendment is to modify the new 2009 IBC to allow the use of 1/3 stress increase for masonry design under seismic and wind loads. The similar amendment was also submitted by NCMA and was approved by Washington State Building Code Council as an amendment to 2006 IBC.

There is an opinion that the state should not adopt this amendment due to a number of technical concerns as stated in the letter dated June 4th, 2009, by Phil Brazil. A copy of this letter is attached as SBCC Bldg Code TAG Log 09-246.

In response to this letter, Ed Houston wrote a Memo on July 17, 2009, to SEAW/EEC committee to support this amendment. A copy of his Memo (SEA EEC Memorandum-ETH) and six other supporting documents provided by Ed Houston and Tom Yong on behalf of NCMA are attached with this email.

SEAW/EEC hold a special meeting on July 22, 2009 to review all above documents and to discuss the reasons for and against this amendment. After the meeting, all committee voting members were then given ample time to further study all relevant information and voted on this amendment. The voting result shows that 82% of the voting member support this amendment which is much higher than the 2/3 passing requirements per the committee voting policy.

As the SEAW/EEC committee Chair, I respectfully present the committee position of supporting the building code amendment Tag Log #09-246. I ask you to take this position into consideration when your council meet to review and approve this amendment.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding to this email.

Tom C. Xia, Ph.D., S.E., LEED® AP

Principal



"Top 500 Design Firm" - ENR

10900 NE 4th Street, Suite 1200 • Bellevue, WA 98004

P: 425.827.2238 • D: 425.818.1729 • F: 425.827.8986

txia@dc-engineers.com • www.dci-engineers.com

Bellevue • Everett • Spokane • Portland • San Diego • Austin